

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A vehicle air conditioning system comprising:

an air conditioning unit for generating air-conditioned air, which is provided with a ventilation opening and a defroster opening;

a ventilation duct connected to the air conditioning unit at the ventilation opening, which conducts the air-conditioned air to a ventilation outlet;

10 a defroster duct connected to the air conditioning unit at the defroster opening, which conducts the air-conditioned air to a defroster outlet; and

an additional duct branching off from the defroster duct, which conducts the air-conditioned air from the defroster duct to an additional outlet.

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2. The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a switching damper for selectively conducting the air-conditioned air from the defroster duct to either the defroster outlet or the additional outlet.

20 3. The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 2, further comprising:

an open/close damper for opening and closing passage 25 of the air-conditioned air of the additional duct.

4. The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 1,  
wherein

the additional outlet comprises an upper ventilation  
outlet which is provided on an upper surface of an instrument  
5 panel to distribute the air-conditioned air to a vehicle rear  
seat.

5. The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 1,  
wherein

10 the additional outlet comprises a rear ventilation outlet  
provided near a vehicle rear seat.

6. The vehicle air conditioning system according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

15 a ventilation damper for opening and closing the  
ventilation opening of the air conditioning unit, wherein the  
ventilation damper is controlled to open and close the  
ventilation opening in dependence on a selected air  
distribution mode, and wherein

20 the defroster opening is kept open irrespective of the  
selected air distribution mode.

7. A vehicle air conditioning system comprising:

an air conditioning unit for generating air-conditioned  
25 air;  
first and second ducts connected to the air conditioning

unit, the first duct conducting the air-conditioned air to a ventilation outlet, the second duct conducting the air-conditioned air to a defroster outlet; and

5 a third duct branching off from the second duct, which conducts the air-conditioned air to one of an upper ventilation outlet provided on an upper surface of an instrument panel to distribute the air-conditioned air to a vehicle rear seat or a rear ventilation outlet provided near the vehicle rear seat.

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8. A vehicle air conditioning system comprising:

an air conditioning unit for generating air-conditioned air;

15 a first path for conducting the air-conditioned air from the air conditioning unit to a ventilation outlet;

a second path for conducting the air-conditioned air from the air conditioning unit to a defroster outlet; and a third path branching off from the second path for conducting the air-conditioned air to an additional outlet.